APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,418	05/30/2001	Michael K. Blackwell	C01104/70001	8017

23628 7590 02/09/2005		

WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, PC
FEDERAL RESERVE PLAZA
600 ATLANTIC AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02210-2211

EXAMINER
SHECHTMAN, SEAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2125	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/870,418	BLACKWELL ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Sean P. Shechtman	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 January 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
      closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-84</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-84</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>29 April 2002</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
      application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/18/02; 10/24/02</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☒ Other: <u>IDS filed 9/13/04; 1/7/05</u>.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-84 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement filed January 18th 2002 fails to comply with 37

CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-

patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information

or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the

information referred to therein has not been considered.

3.   The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure

statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information

submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be

incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless

the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been

considered. See page 1, line 22 of the instant specification.

Drawings

4.   The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every

feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the set-up interface displays a

selected lighting effect as defined by a start time and a stop time associated therewith (claim 70);

each lighting unit is associated with a unique address (claim 71); the plurality of lighting units

include an LED lighting unit capable of emitting light of any of a range of different colors (claim

72); visually representing the a selected lighting effect on a region of the grid defined by the

lighting unit, start time and stop time associated with the selected lighting effect (claim 74);

selecting a transitioning effect between a first and second lighting effect (claim 78);the sequence

authoring module includes a prioritizing unit to permit a user to determine a priority for a first

lighting effect which shares a temporal overlap with a second lighting effect (claim 79); the

sequence authoring module includes an intensity unit to permit a user to determine a brightness

for the selected lighting effect (claim 80); the sequence authoring module includes a motion unit

to permit the user to determine a motion of a lighting unit (claim 82); a lighting effect creator to

permit a user to design lighting effects using the sequence authoring module and to include the

user-designed effects on the authoring interface (claim 83); a user composed lighting effect, a

temporal overlap between lighting effects, a select region of a grid corresponding to a desired

time, a desired time, a select start or stop time, an LED, lighting effects that are prioritized and/or

share a temporal overlap; a lighting program being encoded in a data format that represents a

final data stream capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (claim 30); a lighting

program is encoded in a data format having an entry in the lighting program corresponding to

every one of the plurality of states for the plurality of lights (claim 31); a lighting program is

encoded in a data format without any information necessary to interpolate any of the data

included therein to determine a state for the plurality of lights (claim 32); a lighting program is a

first lighting program, and wherein the computer readable medium is further encoded with a

second lighting program that, when executed, controls the plurality of lights (claim 33); a second

lighting program is encoded in a data format that represents a second final data stream capable of

directly controlling the plurality of lights (claim 34); a lighting program includes at least one

variable that, at execution time, is to be provided by a device to which the computer readable

medium is coupled (claim 35), a lighting program with any variable; a lighting program includes

data to control at least one non-light device in addition to the plurality of lights (claim 36), a non-light controlled device; switching execution of different programs; switching in response to a device, user, or sensor; a new effect; changing an effect to a new effect; changing speed; a "display-less" device; act (B) is performed before the act (A) and the acts of all those elements above required by the claim language must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5.   Although not relied upon in the objections, examiner respectfully notes the following:

Color photographs and color drawings are acceptable only for examination purposes unless a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2) is granted permitting their use as acceptable drawings. In the event that applicant wishes to use the drawings currently on file as acceptable

drawings, a petition must be filed for acceptance of the color photographs or color drawings as

acceptable drawings. Any such petition must be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(h), three sets of color drawings or color photographs, as appropriate, and, unless

already present, an amendment to include the following language as the first paragraph of the

brief description of the drawings section of the specification:

> The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent
> application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the
> necessary fee.

Color photographs will be accepted if the conditions for accepting color drawings have

been satisfied.

6.   The examiner has provided a number of examples of the drawing deficiencies above,

however, the list of deficiencies may not be all inclusive. Applicant should refer to these as

examples of deficiencies and should make all the necessary corrections to eliminate the drawing

objections.

Specification

7.   Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and
should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a
basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be
directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old
apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure
of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions,
wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set
forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves
modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred
modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the
invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

(1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
(2) if an article, its method of making;
(3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
(4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
(5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11-16, 37-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention.

8.   Claims 11-16 recites the limitation "the first lighting program" in lines 1-2. Claim 37

recites the limitation "the computer readable medium" in line 7. Claims 63-64 recites the

limitation "the computer readable medium" in line 17. Claims 65-66 recites the limitation "the

computer readable medium" in line 7. Claim 65-66 recites the limitation "the received

information" in line 12. Claim 67 recites the limitation "the computer readable medium" in line

10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for

patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9.   Claims 30-36 and 68-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.

Pat. No. 5,769,527 to Taylor (supplied by applicant).

Referring to claims 30-36, Taylor teaches a computer readable medium encoded with a

lighting program that, when executed, controls a plurality of lights and defines a plurality of

states for the plurality of lights, the lighting program being encoded in a data format that

represents a final data stream capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (Col. 48, lines

25-36); wherein the lighting program is encoded in a data format having an entry in the lighting

program corresponding to every one of the plurality of states for the plurality of lights; wherein

the lighting program is encoded in a data format without any information necessary to interpolate

any of the data included therein to determine a state for the plurality of lights; wherein the

medium is further encoded with another lighting program that, when executed, controls the

plurality of lights; wherein the second lighting program is encoded in a data format that

represents a second final data stream capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (Col.

49, lines 9-21); wherein the lighting program includes at least one variable that, at execution

time, is to be provided by a device to which the computer readable medium is coupled (Col. 50,

lines 1-9); wherein the lighting program includes data to control at least one non-light device in

addition to the plurality of lights (Col. 50, lines 54-64).

Referring to claims 68-84, Taylor teaches a system for preparing and playing back a light

sequence, comprising an authoring interface displaying information representative of a plurality

of lighting effects (Fig. 33); a sequence authoring module to permit a user to select a lighting

effect (Fig. 33), a lighting unit to execute the lighting effect (Col. 50, lines 42-54), a start time

for the lighting effect, and a stop time for the lighting effect and cue (Col. 63, lines 32 – Col. 64,

line 38); and a playback device, coupled to the lighting unit, to playback the light sequence (Col.

61, lines 33-44), and also a visually display, storage medium, transitioning effect, brightness

(Fig. 33).

10.   Claims 1-26, 30-36, 37-56, 60, 62-67, 68, 69, 71, 75, 78, 80, 84, are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,234 to Pyle (Supplied by applicant).

Referring to claims 68 and 84, Pyle teaches a system for preparing and playing back a

light sequence, comprising an authoring interface displaying information representative of a

plurality of lighting effects (bright and dim); a sequence authoring module to permit a user to

select a lighting effect (bright or dim or intensity), a lighting unit to execute the lighting effect

(room lights), a start time for the lighting effect, and a stop time for the lighting effect (Col. 5,

lines 14-45); and a playback device, coupled to the lighting unit, to playback the light sequence
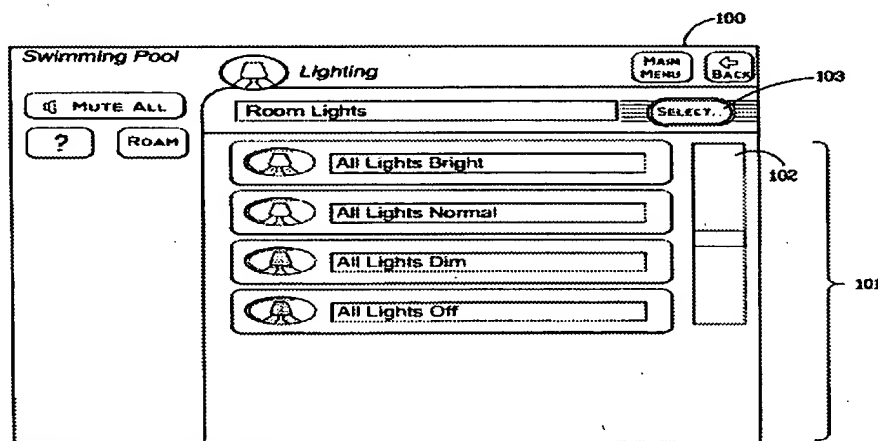
(Col. 9, lines 34-64, especially lines 61-64).

FIG. 1

Examiner respectfully notes that the instant specification teaches the term "light sequence" does not require sequential displays. In fact, the term "light sequence" only requires a controlled display with one light. The examiner respectfully submits that the lighting sequence is not required to be functionally related to or used with the authoring interface or sequence authoring interface.

Referring to claim 69, Pyle teaches the system of claim 68, further comprising a lighting set-up module to receive information representative of an arrangement of a plurality of lighting units, and a set-up interface to visually display the arrangement of the plurality of lighting units (See figure above).

Referring to claim 71, Pyle teaches the system of claim 69, wherein each lighting unit is associated with a unique address (Col. 5, lines 14 – Col. 6, line 39).

Referring to claim 75, Pyle teaches the system of claim 68, further comprising a recorder to store user selections on an electronic storage medium (Col. 5, lines 46-60).

Referring to claim 78, Pyle teaches the system of claim 68, wherein the sequence authoring module includes a transitioning unit to permit a user to select a transition effect for a transition between a first lighting effect and a second lighting effect (Col. 5, lines 14-45).

Referring to claim 80, Pyle teaches the system of claim 68, wherein the sequence authoring module includes an intensity unit to permit a user to determine a brightness for the selected lighting effect (Col. 4, lines 10-27).

Referring to claims 1-26, 30, 37-56, 60, 62-67, Pyle teaches a computer readable medium encoded with a lighting program that, when executed, controls a plurality of lights and defines a plurality of states for the plurality of lights, the lighting program being encoded in a data format

that represents a final data stream capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (Col. 4,

lines 10-29), transferring the programs via a communications channel between various

computers and mediums (Col. 5, lines 46 – Col. 6, lines 39) and switching scenes and transition

times and brightness from input (Col. 5, lines 14-45).

Referring to claim 31, Pyle teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein

the lighting program is encoded in a data format having an entry in the lighting program

corresponding to every one of the plurality of states for the plurality of lights (See above figure).

Referring to claim 32, Pyle teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein

the lighting program is encoded in a data format without any information necessary to interpolate

any of the data included therein to determine a state for the plurality of lights (Col. 4, lines 10-

29).

Referring to claim 33, Pyle teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein

the lighting program is a first lighting program, and wherein the computer readable medium is

further encoded with a second lighting program that, when executed, controls the plurality of

lights (Col. 5, lines 46- Col. 6, line 38).

Referring to claim 34, Pyle teaches the computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein

the second lighting program is encoded in a data format that represents a second final data stream

capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (Col. 5, lines 46- Col. 6, line 38).

Referring to claim 35, Pyle teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein

the lighting program includes at least one variable that, at execution time, is to be provided by a

device to which the computer readable medium is coupled (Col. 5, lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 36, Pyle teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the lighting program includes data to control at least one non-light device in addition to the plurality of lights (Col. 1, lines 40-41).

11.   Claims 1-26, 30-36, 37-56, 60, 62-67, 68, 69, 71, 75, 76, 80, 84, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,945,993 to Fleischmann (Supplied by applicant).

Referring to claims 1-26, 30, 37-56, 60, 62-67, Fleischmann teaches a computer readable medium encoded with a lighting program that, when executed, controls a plurality of lights and defines a plurality of states for the plurality of lights, the lighting program being encoded in a data format that represents a final data stream capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (Fig. 2, elements 66, 68a-68d; Col. 4, lines 33-52; Col. 5, lines 24-30), transferring the programs via a communications channel between various computers and mediums and switching lighting from input (Col. 2, lines 50-60).

Referring to claim 31, Fleischmann teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the lighting program is encoded in a data format having an entry in the lighting program corresponding to every one of the plurality of states for the plurality of lights (Fig. 2, elements 66, 68a-68d; See also Col. 9, lines 36-47).

Referring to claim 32, Fleischmann teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the lighting program is encoded in a data format without any information necessary to interpolate any of the data included therein to determine a state for the plurality of lights (Col. 5, lines 24-30).

Referring to claim 33, Fleischmann teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the lighting program is a first lighting program, and wherein the computer readable medium is further encoded with a second lighting program that, when executed, controls the plurality of lights (Col. 4, lines 53-67; Fig. 2).

Referring to claim 34, Fleischmann teaches the computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the second lighting program is encoded in a data format that represents a second final data stream capable of directly controlling the plurality of lights (Col. 5, lines 60 - Col. 6, line 61).

Referring to claim 35, Fleischmann teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the lighting program includes at least one variable that, at execution time, is to be provided by a device to which the computer readable medium is coupled (Col. 3, line 66 – Col 4, line 12).

Referring to claim 36, Fleischmann teaches the computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the lighting program includes data to control at least one non-light device in addition to the plurality of lights (Col. 11, lines 18-23).

Referring to claims 68 and 84, Fleischmann teaches a system for preparing and playing back a light sequence, comprising an authoring interface displaying information representative of a plurality of lighting effects (Fig. 2); a sequence authoring module to permit a user to select a lighting effect (Col. 5, lines 24-30), a lighting unit to execute the lighting effect, a start time for the lighting effect, and a stop time for the lighting effect (Col. 1, lines 11-15); and a playback device, coupled to the lighting unit, to playback the light sequence (Col. 1, lines 16-20).

Referring to claim 69, Fleischmann teaches the system of claim 68, further comprising a

lighting set-up module to receive information representative of an arrangement of a plurality of

lighting units, and a set-up interface to visually display the arrangement of the plurality of

lighting units (See fig. 2).

Referring to claim 71, Fleischmann teaches the system of claim 69, wherein each lighting

unit is associated with a unique address (Fig. 1a; Col. 3, lines 51-65; Col. 3, lines 13-26).

Referring to claim 75, Fleischmann teaches the system of claim 68, further comprising a

recorder to store user selections on an electronic storage medium (Fig. 1, elements 82, 36, or 60).

Referring to claim 76, Fleischmann teaches the system of claim 68, wherein the sequence

authoring module includes a coloring unit to permit a user to select a color for the selected

lighting effect (Col. 9, lines 36-47).

Referring to claim 80, Fleischmann teaches the system of claim 68, wherein the sequence

authoring module includes an intensity unit to permit a user to determine a brightness for the

selected lighting effect (Fig. 2, elements 66, 68a-68d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

12.   Claims 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No.

6,466,234 to Pyle or U.S. Pat. No. 5,945,993 to Fleischmann as applied to claim 69 above, and

further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,986,414 to Bocchicchio(supplied by applicant).

Referring to claim 70, Pyle and Fleishmann teaches all of the limitation disclosed above, however, fails to teach that upon initiation of a playback function, the set-up interface displays a selected lighting effect as defined by a start time and a stop time associated therewith, on a portion thereof defined by a lighting unit associated with the selected lighting effect.

However, referring to claim 70, Bocchicchio teaches analogous art, wherein upon initiation of a playback function, the set-up interface displays a selected lighting effect as defined by a start time and a stop time associated therewith, on a portion thereof defined by a lighting unit associated with the selected lighting effect (Col. 7, line 42 - Col. 8, line 17 of '414).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Fleischmann or Pyle with the teachings of Bocchicchio. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine either of these references because Bocchicchio teaches a flexible and easily configurable lighting system with a template for creating and editing a lighting program (Col. 2, lines 14 - Col. 3, line 8 of '414).

13.   Claims 72, 82, and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No 5,945,993 to Fleischmann as applied to claims 68, 69 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,361,198 to Reed (supplied by applicant).

Referring to claims 72, 82, and 83, Fleishmann teaches all of the limitation disclosed above, however, fails to teach the plurality of lighting units include an LED lighting unit capable of emitting light of any of a range of different colors; wherein the sequence authoring module includes a motion unit to permit the user to determine a motion of a lighting unit; further

comprising a lighting effect creator to permit a user to design lighting effects using the sequence authoring module and to include the user-designed effects on the authoring interface.

However, referring to claims 72, 82, and 83, Reed teaches analogous art (Title; Abstract of '198), wherein a plurality of lighting units include an LED lighting unit capable of emitting light of any of a range of different colors; further comprising a lighting effect creator to permit a user to design lighting effects using the sequence authoring module and to include the user-designed effects on the authoring interface (Col. 3, lines 25-57 of '198); wherein the sequence authoring module includes a motion unit to permit the user to determine a motion of a lighting unit (Col. 5, lines 1-7; Fig. 16 of '198).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to combine the teachings of Reed with the teachings of Fleischmann. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these references because Reed teaches an interactive light display that uses a computer to allow display routines to be conveniently custom designed and easily exchanged and even downloaded from the internet (Col. 2, lines 1-16 of '198)

14.   Claim 77 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No 5,945,993 to Fleischmann as applied to claim 68 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,334,992 to Rochat (supplied by applicant).

Referring to claim 77, Fleishmann teaches all of the limitation disclosed above, however, fails to teach the sequence authoring module includes a coloring unit to permit a user to select a starting color and an ending color for the selected lighting effect.

However, referring to claim 77, Rochat teaches analogous art, including a starting color and an ending color for a lighting effect (Fig. 5; Col. 6, lines 45-60 of '992).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Fleischmann with the teachings of Rochat. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these references because Rochat teaches an improved system for controlling color of display devices and color selection. Furthermore, Rochat teaches an interface that enhances the ease of color selection and manipulation in a computer system by utilizing display graphics to assist in the visualization of the available color selections. Further advantages of Rochat generally apply to increased accuracy, predictability and ease of use of the interface (Col. 4, lines 13-68 of '992)

15.   Claim 79 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No 5,945,993 to Fleischmann as applied to claim 68 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,739,823 to Akaza (supplied by applicant).

Referring to claim 79, Fleishmann teaches all of the limitation disclosed above, however, fails to teach the sequence authoring module includes a prioritizing unit to permit a user to determine a priority for a first lighting effect which shares a temporal overlap with a second lighting effect.

However, referring to claim 79, Akaza teaches analogous art, comprising permitting the user to specify a priority for a first lighting effect which shares a temporal overlap with a second lighting effect (Col. 9, lines 50-67 of '823).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the teachings of Fleischmann with the teachings of Akaza. One

of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these references because

Akaza teaches a graphic display device for displaying graphs based on input data that can be

clearly and easily discriminated (Col. 1, lines 5-7 and lines 55-56 of '823).

16.   Claims 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat.

No 5,945,993 to Fleischmann or Fleischmann/Reed as applied to claims 68 and 72 above, and

further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,986,414 to Bocchicchio (supplied by applicant).

Referring to claim 73-74, Fleishmann or Fleischmann/Reed teaches all of the limitation

disclosed above, however, fails to teach the authoring interface includes a grid, wherein a

plurality of lighting units are represented along one axis and wherein time is represented along a

second axis; wherein the authoring interface visually represents the selected lighting effect on a

region of the grid defined by a lighting unit, start time, and stop time associated with the selected

lighting effect.

However, referring to claims 73-74, Bocchicchio teaches analogous art, comprising

displaying a grid with lighting units along one axis and time along another axis, and visually

representing lighting effect on a region of the grid defined by the lighting unit (Col. 7, line 42 -

Col. 8, line 17 of '414).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the teachings of Fleischmann or Fleischmann/Reed with the

teachings of Bocchicchio. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to

combine either of these references because Bocchicchio teaches a flexible and easily

configurable lighting system with a template for creating and editing a lighting program (Col. 2,

lines 14 - Col. 3, line 8 of '414).

17.   Claim 27-29, 57-59, 61, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

U.S. Pat. No 5,945,993 to Fleischmann as applied to the claims above, and further in view of

U.S. Pat. No. 5,769,527 to Taylor.

Referring to claims 27-29, 57-59, 61, Fleishmann teaches all of the limitation disclosed

above, however, fails to teach the second device is coupled to a cue table that identifies various

actions to be taken during execution of the lighting program in response to at least two inputs

received at the cue table, and wherein the method further includes an act of, during execution of

the lighting program in act (D), changing a speed at which the lighting program is executed from

a programmed speed to a new speed in response to an output of the cue table; wherein the second

device is coupled to a cue table that identifies various actions to be taken during execution of the

lighting program in response to at least two inputs received at the cue table, and wherein the

method further includes an act of, during execution of the lighting program in act (D), changing a

parameter of at least one effect assigned, in the lighting program, to at least one of the plurality

of lights from a programmed parameter to a new parameter in response to an output of the cue

table; wherein the second device is coupled to a cue table that identifies various actions to be

taken during execution of the lighting program in response to at least two inputs received at the

cue table, and wherein the method further includes an act of, during execution of the lighting

program in act (D), changing an effect assigned in the lighting program to at least one of the

plurality of lights from a programmed effect to a new effect in response to an output of the cue table.

However, referring to claims 27-29, 57-59, 61, Taylor teaches analogous art, wherein the second device is coupled to a cue table that identifies various actions to be taken during execution of the lighting program in response to at least two inputs received at the cue table, and wherein the method further includes an act of, during execution of the lighting program in act (D), changing a speed at which the lighting program is executed from a programmed speed to a new speed in response to an output of the cue table; wherein the second device is coupled to a cue table that identifies various actions to be taken during execution of the lighting program in response to at least two inputs received at the cue table, and wherein the method further includes an act of, during execution of the lighting program in act (D), changing a parameter of at least one effect assigned, in the lighting program, to at least one of the plurality of lights from a programmed parameter to a new parameter in response to an output of the cue table; wherein the second device is coupled to a cue table that identifies various actions to be taken during execution of the lighting program in response to at least two inputs received at the cue table, and wherein the method further includes an act of, during execution of the lighting program in act (D), changing an effect assigned in the lighting program to at least one of the plurality of lights from a programmed effect to a new effect in response to an output of the cue table (Col. 5, lines 36 – Col. 6, line 17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Fleischmann with the teachings of Taylor. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these references because

Taylor teaches lighting systems having intelligent remote lighting fixtures and intelligent

distribution networks (Col. 1, lines 26-30) that can coordinate communications between control

devices and lamp units having diverse communications protocols, functions, and data formats

(Col. 2, lines 5-24).

Conclusion

18.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Sean P. Shechtman whose telephone number is (571) 272-3754.

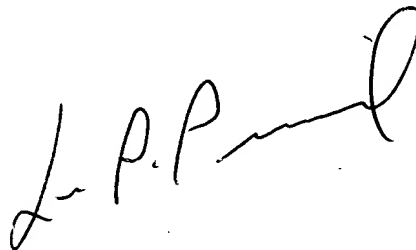The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SPS

Sean P. Shechtman

January 5, 2005

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100